

English Skill: “Speak clearly to be understood”

Used in the workplace at BarBar Nurseries:

Nursery, pre-school and childcare providers in Stroud and Gloucester



**Johanna Barton, Manager
BarBar Nursery, Stratford Park**

“Being able to speak clearly is extremely important in childcare. We look after a broad range of children, including those whose first language isn’t English and those with speech and language delays. We therefore need to be able to communicate at a level that each child understands and that’s appropriate to their age. It’s really important to use the correct words and phraseology, so that children develop a good grasp of the English language.”

Speaking clearly and making sure that the child understands me is particularly important when we are outside in the field or playground – it’s essential for the child’s safety as well as their general wellbeing. It’s also essential to be able to communicate clearly with parents, other staff here and, at times, other professionals.”

About BarBar Nurseries

BarBar offer nursery, pre-school and after-school childcare provision across their three sites, with locations at Stratford Park in Stroud, the Rosary School in Stroud and also more recently in Quedgeley. Since 2005, BarBar have been caring for babies, toddlers and pre-school children, aiming to inspire confidence, effort, kindness and humour for all in their care.

Who do BarBar Nurseries Employ?

Currently 35 members of staff across the 3 nurseries, including:

- Directors
- Nursery Managers
- Childcare Staff (Level 2 & 3) and Room Leaders
- SENDCO/Child Protection & SEND Assistant
- Apprentices, Level 2 & 3
- Maintenance
- Deputy Managers
- Operations Manager
- Cooks

Range of Salaries: from £7,500 per year for apprentices, rising to c£19k+ per year for leaders/Managers. Salaries in childcare vary depending on location and level of responsibility.

Skills Shortages: Finding apprentices and new staff that can communicate well verbally and in writing is difficult. Staff need to be able to write observations and reports on the children, and many struggle to do this well when they first leave school or college.

Useful Links

www.barbarnursery.co.uk

www.ndna.org.uk

www.nurseryworld.co.uk



See the accompanying film production for more on the use of this skill

Video summary: staff need to be able to speak clearly to be understood at BarBar Nurseries so that...

- Children's safety and wellbeing is not compromised
- Staff can pass on information about the child to other staff, parents and professionals
- Babies and children can gain a good grasp of the English language and communicate their needs and wants.